

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following section heading on page 4, line 31.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

Please replace the following paragraph for the paragraph in the Abstract:

An installation for the cataphoretic dip coating of articles[[-(4)]], in particular of vehicle bodies, comprises in known manner a dip tank[[-(1)]], into which the articles [[(4)]] can be immersed. The negative terminal of a coating voltage source [[(5)]] can be connected with the immersed articles[[-(4)]]; the positive terminal of the voltage source is connected with at least one anode [[(6)]] immersed in the coating liquid present in the dip tank[[-(1)]]]. This anode [[(6)]] has a cross-sectional profile which, in at least one portion ~~(6a, 6b, 6c)~~, is adapted as a curved surface to the outline of the articles [[(4)]] to be treated in such a manner that the anode follows the outline of said article [[(4)]] in approximately parallel manner. This is made possible by the electrodialysis apparatus[[-(19)]], by means of which the acid formed during the coating operation is removed from the coating liquid and which is necessary for such installations, being arranged outside the dip tank[[-(1)]].

REMARKS/ ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action, Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,114,554, issued to Voss et al. (“*Voss*”) in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,610,187, issued to Nonomura et al. (“*Nonomura*”) and/or U.S. Patent No. 4,026,780, issued to Gange (“*Gange*”); Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Voss* in combination with *Nonomura* and/or *Gange* as applied to Claims 1-3, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,132,570, issued to Akram et al., (“*Akram*”); Claims 5-7 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper form; Claims 1-4 were objected to based on an informality; Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicant regards as the invention; the Specification was objected to because of omitted headings.

By this response, the Specification has been amended in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.77(b); Claims 1 and 3-7 have been amended; Claim 2 has been canceled; and Claim 8 has been added. As such, Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending in this application.

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that all pending claims be passed to issue.

Claim Objections Under 37 § C.F.R. 1.75 And Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Applicant has amended the claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicant regards as the invention. In view of the above amended claims, the Applicant respectfully requests that the claim objections and rejections be removed and the claims allowed to issue.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Voss discloses an installation having features like those in the preamble of original Claim 1, however *Voss* fails to disclose or teach an anode having a cross-sectional profile which, in at least one portion is adapted as a curved surface to the outline of the articles to be treated in such a manner that the anode follows the outline of said articles in approximately parallel manner, and further wherein the anode has a U-shaped profile with two lateral portions and a lower portion, which joins the lateral portions together.

In regard to *Nonomura*, this reference fails to disclose the electrodialysis apparatus required in amended Claim 1. *Nonomura* further fails to disclose anodes following the outline of the articles to be treated in an approximately parallel manner. More specifically, *Nonomura* teaches that electrode plates are arranged on a side wall and a bottom wall of the electrode position tank (see col. 2, lines 38ff). Note, that items 38, 39 in figure 2 are holding pipes for nozzles 29, 35, 36, 37 (see col. 6, lines 29 to 39). Obviously, the liquid flow induced by nozzles 29, 35 to 37 is responsible for film thickness inside and on top of the body to be coated.

Furthermore, the U-shaped anode of Applicant's amended Claim 1 provides for the articles to be easily put into and out of the dip tank. Nevertheless, it has been found out that even in such a case, the articles are coated all around their surface, even without using complex systems of nozzles to induce special flow patterns disclosed in *Nonomura*.

With respect to *Gange*, this reference discloses a cylindrical geometry and refers to cataphoretically coating of long, thin tungsten wires in a closed cylinder. Not surprisingly, however, *Gange* provides no guidance as to its application involving work pieces having a complex structure akin to automobile bodies. Furthermore, in view of *Gange*'s disclosure, there is no reasonable expectation that an external electrodialysis apparatus could be successfully implemented with *Gange*'s apparatus.

Lastly, *Akram* is relied upon in combination with *Voss*, *Nonomura*, and/or *Gange* to reject Claim 4; however, with respect to amended Claim 1, *Akram* fails to compensate for the shortcomings of the cited prior art references.

Based on at least the above reasoning, the Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claim 1—as well as amended Claims 3-7 by virtue of their ultimate dependence there from—should be allowed over the cited prior art. As such, the Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are now allowable and requests that the rejections to the claims be removed.

New Claim

Claim 8 directly depends on allowable Claim 1. As such, the Applicant respectfully submits that this added claim also be allowed to issue.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that all objections and rejections be removed and all pending claims be passed to issue.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are required, however if any fees are required, they may be paid out of our Deposit Account No. 50-0545.

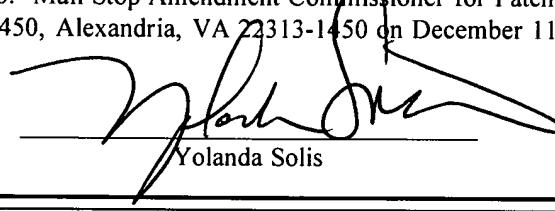
Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: December 11, 2006


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 11, 2006.


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